

**City of Belmont
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 11, 2012
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Belmont Parks & Recreation Commission of January 11, 2012 was called to order at 7:01 p.m. at the Belmont City Hall Council Chambers.

I. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair (CC) Cheechov, Vice Chair Davis, Youth Commissioner (YC) Bartee, Commissioner (C) Andrews, King, Bortoli, Sullivan and YC Zakeri. C Wright arrived shortly after roll call.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Director (PRD) Gervais, Recreation Supervisor (RS) Handley and Secretary (S) Saggau

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C King moved, seconded by C Davis, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 7, 2011. Vote 8-0 in favor.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION/COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

C Sullivan reported that the trail work day in partnership with Devil's Canyon community was successful and progress on the project has been made. The work will continue when the rains begin which will help with digging.

C Wright arrived at 7:03 p.m.

IV. AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Appointment of Community Member at Large Representative to the Belmont Senior Citizens Advisory Committee**

PRD Gervais stated the Parks & Recreation Commission appoints members for the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC). This Committee provides advice and feedback on ideas, programs and changes at the Twin Pines Senior/Community Center.

RS Handley explained AARP disbanded due to declining membership and lack of leadership. The SCAC revised their by-laws and in lieu of having an AARP representative they chose to add another community member-at-large position. This position was advertised at the Center and one candidate, Frank Rausch, has applied for this position. He has volunteered at the Senior Center for two years and has been an asset to the Center.

Mr. Rausch answered questions from the Commission. He noted the Center is a friendly place to go and provides a lot of activities.

PRD Gervais noted staff would welcome Commissioners if they would ever like a tour of the Center or have lunch with the senior community.

C Davis moved, seconded by C King, that the Commission appoints Frank Rausch to the vacancy on the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. Vote 9-0 in favor.

b. Joint Powers Agreement with the Sequoia Union High School District for the Use of Carlmont High School Aquatics Facilities and the Carlmont High School Performing Arts Center and Studio Theater

PRD Gervais reported the City has been operating an aquatics program at Carlmont High School offering swim lessons and recreation swim in the summer for over 25 years. Every year an Agreement was made with Sequoia Union High School District. Staff determined a long term agreement would be beneficial in calculating the budget each year. The City also negotiated an agreement for use of the Theater for the Dance Program that puts on a production once a year in June. The Heartbeat Dance Academy pays for their use of the Theater. PRD Gervais said the City Attorney reviewed the proposed contract and staff plans to bring it to the City Council in January or February.

PRD Gervais responded to Commission questions. C Wright asked if the use of the restrooms and dressing rooms in the Performing Arts Theater could be included in the contract and if the possibility of scheduling more days in the Performing Arts Theater for other groups at the same negotiated rate could be added to the contract. Staff will check if those two items can be included.

C Davis congratulated staff for putting together a five year agreement.

C Sullivan moved, seconded by C Andrews, that the Commission recommends bringing this item to the City Council as written with the recommendations that C Wright put forth. Vote 9-0 in favor.

VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Questions and Comments

PRD Gervais reported the following:

- The Softball Agreement was approved by all three cities and will start this spring.
- Applications for the Commission are open and the deadline is January 27, 2012.
- The at large Tree Board member is also being recruited with the other Commission vacancies.
- The Department is applying for a grant for the Senior/Community Center for painting the facility interior and exterior.
- There have been vandalism and theft at the Sports Complex. Twelve electrical boxes were lifted and the copper wires cut for the lights but the perpetrators did not take the wire. The snack shack was also broken into. Security will be increased at the site.
- A Traffic Engineer is reviewing the Davey Glen Park project looking at the bulb-out, ADA parking and whether the bus stop needs to be moved. The process has also started for the California Environment Quality Act including a Geotechnical Review.
- Negotiations with the 1870 Art Center has come to an impasse. A letter was sent to the artists ending the relationship with the 1870 Art Center and the City will offer studio space to artists as individual leases.
- Father Daughter Sweetheart Dance will be held in February.

In response to C Sullivan's questions PRD Gervais said new lights have been installed on Ralston Avenue with grant monies. These new lights have a different shape and are LED which will save on electrical costs.

C Sullivan questioned if the City was approached by NDNU for rental space while they undertake a retrofitting project. PRD Gervais said the City did not receive a request but would be willing to work with them.

C Sullivan questioned if the dirt lot next to the Sports Complex is used for parking. It was explained that this lot belongs to Oracle and at one time they planned to install a parking lot that would have been available for sports complex users in the evening and on weekends. Oracle's construction plans changed and that area remained a dirt lot and it is often used for parking. C King said she heard of plans to put in a garden facility which would provide fruits and vegetables for Oracle's restaurants. C Sullivan questioned if a bike path could be established there. PRD Gervais noted a map at the site showing the location of nearby bike paths would be a good idea.

In response to C Wright's question PRD Gervais said that discussions with Clear Channel have resumed on whether an electronic billboard could be installed by the Sports Complex.

B. Future Agenda Items

Belmont Sports Complex Update
Proposed Grant from the National Fitness Campaign

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Jonathan Gervais
Parks & Recreation Director